

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198196

S/S FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 7697 ACTION SECSTATE DIA INFO
AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO JERUSALEM MOSCOW 4 OCT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7697

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, SY, EG, IS

SUBJ: SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

REF: BEIRUT 11526

1. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF ARAB WORLD DEVELOPMENTS WITH EMBOFF
OCT 3 (BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTEL), MID EAST AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR VERED OF FONMIN TOOK RELAXED VIEW TOWARD
POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL BY ARAB STATES IN
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. NOTHING SHE SAID SUGGESTED ANY ISRAELI
CONCERN ABOUT A POSSIBLE DELIBERATE FANNING OF TENSIONS BY ANY
FACTOR, SUCH AS SOVIETS (REFTEL).

2. RE SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY NEAR GOLAN CEASEFIRE LINE, MRS
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VERED SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME BUILDUP AND INCREASE IN

ALERT STATUS FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 13 SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR CLASH. ISRAELIS ASCRIBED THIS TO SYRIAN DESIRE TO BE READIER FOR ANY FUTURE MILITARY INCIDENTS OF ANY KIND. THERE MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN A LIMITED DEGREE OF SYRIAN HANKERING FOR A SUCCESSFUL GROUND ACTION, IRRATIONAL AS SUCH EXPECTATION MIGHT BE.

3. MRS VERED SAID ISRAELI ANALYSTS WERE CONFIDENT THAT VOICES OF REASON IN DAMASCUS WOULD CONTINUE TO PREVAIL AND CONSIDERED ALLEGED LINGERING OF TENSION ALONG CEASEFIRE LINE TO BE MAINLY DELAYED REACTION OF JOURNALISTS. DAYAN LAST WEEK AT ONE POINT WAS NOT INCLINED WHOLLY TO DISCOUNT SYRIAN IRRATIONAL FACTOR, SHE ADDED, BUT SHE IMPLIED THAT DAYAN TOO WAS NO LONGER AT ALL CONCERNED.

4. AS FOR EGYPT, MRS VERED SAID ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN EGYPTIAN MILITARY ALERT LAST WEEK ALONG NORTH AND CENTRAL SUEZ CANAL SECTORS WERE CORRECT: THIS WAS GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIAN AND ALSO WAS EXTRA PRECAUTION IN EVENT A SYRIAN-ISRAELI FLAREUP SHOULD LEAD TO INCIDENT ALONG CANAL. HOWEVER, SADAT REGIME IN MRS VERED'S OPINION WAS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED MAINLY WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
KEATING UNQUOTE PORTER

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